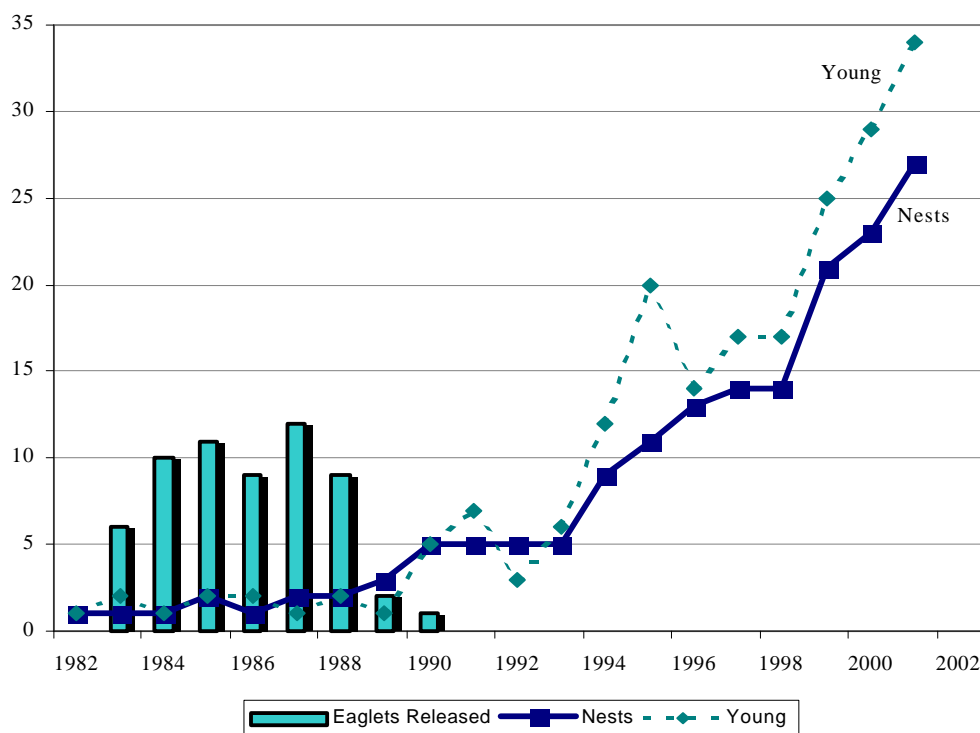


**OBJECTIVE:** Maintain diversity and optimum distribution and density of NJ's aquatic and terrestrial species and their habitats.

**INDICATOR:** Status & Trends of Critical Species & Management

### Number of Bald Eagle Nests and Young: Increasing



Year	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Nests	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	5	5	5	5	9	11	13	14	14	21	23	27
Young	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	5	7	3	6	12	20	14	17	17	25	29	34

The number of Bald Eagle nests and young produced each year are indicators of availability and quality of large-area forest and aquatic habitats, and active management by biologists. Historic records estimate 22 NJ nests through the 1940s, declining to a yearly average of 1 nest and no young through the 1970s. In 2001, there were 27 active nesting pairs of eagles that produced a record 34 young, for a productivity rate of 1.3 young per nest. The recovery resulted from the release of 60 young eaglets obtained from Canada (1983-1990) in concert with continued intensive management of failing nests and protection of nests, provided by biologists and landowners. Improvements in habitat quality due to federal bans of DDT and other organochlorines including PCBs in the 1970s and 1980s have also contributed to the recovery. While number and distribution of nests continues to improve, habitat loss, human disturbance and lingering organochlorine contamination threatened 16 of 27 nests in 2001, and remain significant threats to maintaining and enhancing NJ's Bald Eagle population.

*Data Source: NJDEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program, DFW*